

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1 under the heading "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" with the following:

-- The present application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/586,308 filed on June 2, 2000, ^{now U.S. Patent No. 6,402,785,} entitled ARTIFICIAL DISC IMPLANT, which claims the benefit of the filing date of Provisional Application Serial No. 60/137,586 filed June 4, 1999, entitled ARTIFICIAL DISC REPLACEMENT. The referenced applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-42 without prejudice and before calculation of the filing fee.

Please add new claims 54-62 as follows:

-- 54. A method for inserting an artificial disc implant into a spinal disc space, comprising:

accessing the disc space;

inserting a sleeve adjacent the disc space, the sleeve having a working channel extending between a proximal end and a distal end;

preparing an implant insertion location in the disc space through the sleeve;

providing an implant having an upper shell, a lower shell, and a spacer between the upper shell and the lower shell;

reducing the height of the implant between the upper and lower shells;